DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Monday, November 3, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:51pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:40am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	20°C
Maximum	32°C
Humidity	52%
Outlook	Sunny

Haaland fires City up to second in EPL

Pg.18 SPORT

Over 300 huts gutted in blaze at Jauhar

KARACHI: Over 300 huts, along with animals and other valuables, were destroyed when a huge fire erupted in Gulistan-i-Jauhar on Sunday morning, rescue service officials said.

They added that no human was injured in the fire.

Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaan-ul-Haseeb Khan told *Dawn* that an estimated 500 huts were located near Munawar Chowrangi in Block-12, where the fire broke out.

"After receiving information through the Command and Control System, we dispatched fire tenders and rescue teams," he added.

Four fire tenders managed to control the blaze after hectic efforts lasting for four hours.

Over 300 huts, goats, motorcycles and sewing machines were also destroyed in the fire. —Staff Reporter

PEOPLE look for salvageable belongings after a fire in an informal settlement in Gulistan-i-Jauhar.—Online

Boy shot dead by robbers

KARACHI: A minor boy was shot dead and another wounded by robbers on the Superhighway within the remit of the Sachal police station on Sunday, police said.

They said that the incident took place near Burraq petrol pump. The robbers intercepted Ali Akbar Khoso, 55, and his nephew, Hasnain Qasim, 12, and demanded their valuables. When they put up resistance, the robbers shot them and fled.

The police said the they were taken to a nearby hospital where doctors pronounced the boy dead. —Staff Reporter

FIA man run over, killed by dumper

KARACHI: An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) was run over and killed by a dumper near Rashidi Goth on Sunday, according to police.

Malir Cantonment SHO Agha Abdul Rasheed said that ASI Mohammed Ayub, 38, was riding a motorcycle at around 8:45am when a recklessly driven dumper hit and ran him over on Link Road. He sustained critical injuries and died on the spot.

The driver responsible for the fatal accident was arrested and the heavy vehicle impounded.

The body was shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities. —Staff Reporter

Rising cases of dengue expose govt inability to tackle disease

• Unofficial mortality figures paint haunting picture of threat posed by dengue • Families claim 26 deaths in Hyderabad alone between Oct 1 and Nov 2 • Health dept confirms six deaths in 10 months • Experts stress need for research into why the vector is proving so lethal this year

By Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: After sitting idle amid rising cases of dengue, the Sindh health department has finally decided to tackle the outbreak of the mosquito-borne viral disease by adopting what some believe as a "proactive approach", particularly in Karachi and Hyderabad — the two major urban centres of Sindh.

However, before the department could take any concrete steps, some 30 precious lives — 26 in Hyderabad and four in Karachi — had already been lost from October 1 to Nov 2, according to the victims' families. However, the health department has so far confirmed only six deaths in the province.

The death of a student has now led to the initiation of criminal proceedings, under a judicial order, against the doctors of Sindh's second-largest tertiary care hospital and a teacher at Liaquat Medical University.

After the media highlighted the rising number of dengue cases and political leaders expressed concerns, chief secretary of Sindh Asif Hyder Shah, lately, had to hold back-to-back meetings to review the situation. He told the officials to pull their socks up to ensure "robust coordination". The pace of the fumigation drive has noticeably accelerated.

The health department has not yet shared complete statistics of cases despite a visible surge in number of dengue patients in Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, the provincial health minister has also admitted that the available data doesn't include cases from private laboratories. However, following the intervention of the chief secretary the health department started collecting figures from private health facilities.

But in case of Hyderabad, district health officer (DHO) didn't include statistics of the largest pathological facility of the very Sindh government ie, Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (DRL) of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) having massive outreach in Sindh.

It was the same DRL that had worked in the 2020-2021 Covid-19 pandemic in Sindh, offering tremendous support to the government by performing a maximum number of Covid tests round the clock.

Since the commencement of dengue season, the health department seems to be downplaying the onslaught of mosquitoes by sharing data only from a few hospitals.

"When you don't have actual numbers anywhere in case of an ailment you can't plan your future strategy," noted a senior pathologist.

"We have been alerting Sindh health functionaries about the gradual rise in dengue cases but they didn't take it seriously," said a medical expert.

The health department had previously established a dengue surveillance cell when it first made its presence felt in the province over 10 years ago. Now dengue virus situation is being managed by Deputy Director General Vector Borne Disease (VBD).

Exceptional rise in cases warrants research as to why the vector is proving to be so lethal this year, said another expert.

A look at the DRL's dengue positive tests of 2023 and 2024 shows that a total number of 2,612 positive cases were reported in Jan-Dec 2023 and 4,283 in Jan-Dec 2024. Cases of Latifabad in both years topped

Continued on Page 15

Two booked for human trafficking after newborn taken away from destitute mother

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Two women employees of a private medical facility in Malir — including a doctor — have been booked for human trafficking after they took away a newborn whose family could not afford the medical expenses of the childbirth.

Police said that the baby, who was later sold to someone in Punjab, had been recovered and returned to his parents, while the health facility had been sealed.

On Nov 1, Sarang Khan, the newborn child's father, lodged a case with Memon Goth police under sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2018 and 34 Section of the Pakistan Penal Code.

Memon Goth police officer Fayaz Jokhio told Dawn on Sunday that the baby boy had been recovered from Lahore. "Raids are being held to arrest the nominated suspects," he added.

In the FIR, Mr Khan told the police he was a resident of a village in Nooriabad and a labourer by trade. His wife (Maheen) was pregnant and she left for her parents' home after developing some differences with him around three to four months ago.

She was taken to a private clinic in Murad Memon Goth on October 5 by her mother Mrs Shahnaz to deliver the baby.

After the medical check-up, a doctor suggested an operation and asked them to make the required payment.

When Mrs Shahnaz said that they were poor and did not have the money to bear the cost of the operation, the doctor allegedly told them of a woman who would "help the poor and adopt their children", while also paying for medical expenses.

The complainant claimed that his wife and mother-in-law agreed to this proposal, and the baby boy was handed over to the woman, who turned out to be another employee at the same medical facility.

The complainant claimed that his wife and his mother-in-law kept the incident from him, adding that he came to know through relatives that he was blessed with a male child, but he had been given up for adoption at the hospital.

Court discharges two 'SRA men' in explosives case

By Sumair Abdullah

KARACHI: A judicial magistrate on Sunday discharged two suspects allegedly associated with the outlawed Sindhudesh Revolutionary Army (SRA) in a case pertaining to the possession of explosives.

The investigating officer (IO) produced the suspects, Sarmad Ali Raza and Ghani Aman Chandio, before the duty magistrate (West) at the City Courts amid tight security in an armoured vehicle.

According to the remand papers, the IO stated that the suspects had been apprehended by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) during an intelligence-based operation conducted in Machhar Colony.

He claimed that the CTD had allegedly recovered a grenade from the suspects' possession, which was later defused by the Bomb Disposal Squad.

The IO stated that the suspects were affiliated with the banned SRA and sought their one-day transit remand to produce them before the administrative judge of the anti-terrorism courts.

On the other hand, defence counsel Haseeb Panhwar moved an application seeking their discharge under the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Speaking to *Dawn*, Advocate Panhwar said he had argued before the court that the suspects were falsely implicated in the case with mala fide intentions.

He maintained that the law enforcement agency had allegedly picked them up earlier, and their custody was later shown in the present explosives case.

The counsel added that he had placed on record copies of a constitutional petition filed in the Sindh High Court regarding the disappearance of the suspects, along with applications submitted to the authorities concerned and a KBA resolution expressing concern over their disappearance.

After hearing the counsel and examining the remand papers, the court allowed the defence application and discharged them under Section 63 of the CrPC in the case, directing the IO to submit a charge sheet within the stipulated period as per law.

A day earlier, the CTD had claimed that it had registered two cases against the suspects under relevant sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act and Explosives Act.

It alleged that the suspects had a past criminal record as they were allegedly involved in five terrorism cases registered in Hyderabad, Jamshoro and Larkana.

Woman, daughter die in house fire

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A woman and her young daughter were killed in a fire incident in Orangi Town.

A rescue services spokesperson told *Dawn* that they responded to a call about a fire inside a home near Shah Faisal Chowk in Orangi Town.

He said one fire tender managed to control it.

Two women, namely Kaleemunissa, 50, and her daughter Atiqa, 25, died in the incident.

The spokesperson said the exact cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately.

The bodies were shifted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital for medico-legal formalities.

'Creation is in the act of doing'

International artists discuss AI challenge on third day of World Culture Festival

By Peerzada Salman

KARACHI: An open-mic session at the Arts Council's Studio 2 began proceedings for the World Culture Festival on Sunday. It was an enlightening chit-chat among more than two dozen international artists talking about various challenges that the artist community faces today.

For example, the most important, arguably, question that the moderator Ahsan Bari put to them was about the effects of artificial intelligence (AI) on art. One of them said, we are using AI for the wrong purposes. "We are in this universe to express experience. Instead of making AI express for ourselves, we should use AI to curate a world where we could all express ourselves. It's our job not to use it but make [through] it something better."

A dancer, with respect to the perceived dangers posed by AI, said when she was preparing for the World Culture Festival, she thought to herself that performance is in the doing, not in the done. "Most artists know that creation is not in the product but in the creating part of it… The creation is in the act of doing, not what we can squeeze out… As artists we have our voice and each of us need to hold that voice. It doesn't mean we can't be influenced by AI, but whatever we make should be true to ourselves. I believe it will survive much longer anything that what a machine pushes out without a soul."

The conversation was followed by screenings of short films. The five shorts on the list were: *A Rhythm of Our Own, Caravana, An Arrow Held Back, Shadows Short* and *Two Rivers*.

Talk on improvisation

Lucy Tasker from Belgium impressed everyone with her bass clarinet playing on the opening day of the festival. On Sunday she held the first workshop of the event for music students. The focus of her talk was on improvisation.

"I play a lot of clarinet in Belgium and the UK. Most of the music I do, 85 to 90 per cent is improvisation. Personally, that's what I like to do. Everyone has a different way of playing. Some people like to read notes, some play melodies, some like to improvise, some do everything," she said.

She asked the audience what they understood by improvisation. One person said it's something out or ordinary; another said adding your personal expression to the composition; and another said limitless creativity. She praised the last one, adding, "We say the world is your oyster. You can do whatever you want."

Ms Tasker said one can choose one's own rules. "Some musicians improvise with one note. Then there's jazz improvisation which is on a changing harmony. We also have a free improvisation which is basically anything you like."

Earlier on Saturday night, Pakistani and international performers including Ammar Ashqar (Syria), Lucy Tasker (Belgium), Madan Gopal (Nepal), Zakariya Haffar (France), Shireen Jawad (Bangladesh) and Pakistani stars Bilal Saeed, Akhtar Chanal and Akbar Khameso Khan enthralled the audience with their mesmerising performances at the mega musical concert.

LUCY Tasker plays bass clarinet at the workshop.—Dawn